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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

BATGIRL

Batgirl: Bar-Bar-Bar Bar-Barbara Can

In most cases, people would be thrilled for a paralyzed shooting victim to regain the ability to walk. Surprisingly, though, DC readers were concerned and apprehensive when the publisher announced that, as part of the New 52 launch, Barbara Gordon would return as Batgirl—a role she relinquished more than two decades ago in the aftermath of ***Batman: The Killing Joke,*** when the Joker brutally assaulted and nearly killer her, leaving Gordon paralyzed.

Writer *Gail Simone* certainly understands. For years, Simone wrote about Barbara Gordon's second heroic role, that of Oracle, a vital member of ***Birds of Prey*** and the DCU's resident computer/IT specialist. That's why it was essential to her that the issue of Barbara Gordon's assault and paralysis be addressed head-on in the New 52 ***Batgirl.*** What inspired her to make it clear from the beginning that this was indeed the very same Barbara Gordon who was nearly killed by the Joker?

"This is really the crux of the whole issue to me," Simone said. "While ***The Killing*** Joke barely treated Barbara Gordon as a human being, two other writers—the wonderful *Kim Yale* and *John Ostrander*—felt that the story was a tragic waste of a great character. They took a bad situation and created a new identity for Barbara, as Oracle, the computer genius who rules the world from a clock tower. And ,as she was one of the few disabled characters in comics, she was a tremendous inspiration to a lot of people, and you have to—you *have* to respect that.

"I don't think anyone wanted to wave a magic wand and dismiss that, it just felt wrong for multiple reasons. At the same time, with this reboot, and pushing most of the characters back earlier in their careers, it was really the only viable way, in my mind, to make Barbara Batgirl again. A woman in her thirties who has run countries from her laptop isn't going to go back to the identity she had when she was seventeen years old and just learning the game.

"Also, I didn't want to remove Barbara as a source of strength and inspiration for people. She's suffered a home invasion, and a terrible trauma, and we don't want to pretend those things didn't happen. In a way, it's a bigger adjustment for her regaining her mobility than it was to lose it.

"But it's Barbara Gordon, one of the most joyous characters in comics. She's going to struggle, but she's going to still be Barbara...it's interesting to see her take her first steps to the life I think she is destined to live."

As ***Batgirl*** has continued, readers have seen that Barbara is still having trouble dealing with that event. Does Simone believe that she can she ever get past it, or will it define her? "I *do* like heroes who have to struggle," Simone said. "The problem with both the DC and Marvel universes is that eventually, you get all these dozens of heroes who are effectively unbeatable. They've defeated everyone dozens of times. Barbara is destined for greatness—but right now, we're catching her when she's still a little unsteady. And a great many readers related to that, by the response we hear...everyone struggles at some point!

"The exciting thing about the New 52 is a little bit of uncertainty...it's a little less cozy and a little more unpredictable, and I do like seeing our heroes face that. I love Year One stories, and in a way, Batgirl is getting a second Year One— and even though she's a bit wobbly, no one wants a Batgirl book to be dreary. We want it to be full of oddball villains and adventure and brave, fierce young women swinging over Gotham.

"And we want *Ardian Syaf* to draw it!"

Batgirl #7 reveals another aspect of Barbara Gordon's traumatic experience as Batgirl reportedly faces "the demons of her past," according to DC's solicitation information. Do these demons include that horrifying Joker confrontation--and is there more in her past to be dealt with than just this event? "She *definitely* faces ***The Killing Joke*** head-on, in a surprising way—and then after that, I don't want to say too much, but it's a new life for Batgirl," Simone said. "It's a very different spin, something we absolutely didn't know about that night that changes how she looks at the entire world."

One thing that remains unclear is the revamped New 52 timeline. How long ago did Barbara Gordon's shooting occur? How long ago did she first defend Gotham as Batgirl? How long was she out of action? Trying to build the chronology of the New 52 has become a past-time for a lot of readers; Simone was willing to help out with a few dates. "Barbara was Batgirl for about a year," Simone explained. "She was shot roughly three years ago, and she's been out of the chair for the better part of a year. We will be exploring that year and her actual rehabilitation slowly.

"I agree that the chronology overall of the new DCU is a bit uncharted... those blanks are hopefully being filled in all the time. We're used to knowing all these connections. It's exciting to see new history being made by writers like Palmiotti & Gray, Lemire, Snyder, Morrison, Nocenti... all those great writers making the new maps for the future. I'm anxious to see where it all leads. I'm reading more DC books than ever, and that's saying a lot, believe me!"

Batgirl has *two* father figures who worry about her: her true father, Commissioner Gordon, as well as Batman. How does she deal with each of them as she returns to action as Batgirl? "This is a theme we're going to really dig into deep—that the Gordons are as important to Gotham as the Waynes, at this point. We are going to be showing the good and the very, very bad in the Gordon family in a way that has never quite been done before. It's two dangerous dynasties who tower over the city, each in a different way... Sorry for babbling, but I frankly *love* this stuff!"

The New 52 launch not only offered an opportunity to reinvent Barbara Gordon as Batgirl, it also offered a great chance to develop a new slate of villains—and it appears that Simone is doing just that in ***Batgirl #7*** with the introduction of Grotesque. Who is he, and what is his link to Barbara Gordon? Grotesque thinks he's James Bond; he's a painfully snobbish meta-human who wields absolute control over someone who has been absolutely crucial in Barbara's life. His clueless and unearned entitlement make him a great deal of fun, really.

"Creating villains is one of my favorite things in comics, and some of these will come back and the extra layers of those onions will be peeled away. I love that. It scratches a bit of the itch left by the ending of the ***Secret Six*** title. Now I just need Batgirl to fight King Shark!"

Does Simone envision another major Batgirl/Joker confrontation at some point—and if so, does she have a plan as to when that story might be told? "Batgirl's new arch-nemesis isn't the Joker. It's a woman called Knightfall, who represents the absolute *worst* in Gotham City, and has a truckload of firepower to bring along with her wherever she goes. She's Batgirl's Kingpin, really, and we see her in just a few months. I can't wait for that. So the Joker's just going to have to wait his turn to get his ass kicked by Batgirl!"

Since last September's New 52 launch, two of the most highly praised Batman family books are titles that don't feature Batman at all: ***All-Star Western*** (which features Jonah Hex in a 19th Century Gotham City) and ***Batgirl.*** Does Simone find that kind of praise at all intimidating? And what's the secret of ***Batgirl's*** success? "As much as I appreciate that on behalf of the whole bat-team, all I can say is, man, I'm just glad to be in the same company as the *other* Bat-teams! Guys like *Scott Snyder* and *Kyle Higgins* and *Peter Tomasi* are absolutely *killing* it—not to mention that weird Scot guy, *Grant Morrison* or whatever his name is. I hear he's good, too!..

"Really, it's pretty thrilling to be part of the Bat-universe when they are at such an incredible creative tipping point. We're working on this ***Court of Owls*** crossover that *Scott Snyder* came up with, and it's all the writers and artists and editors as one big noisy team, sharing ideas to support Scott's gorgeous concept. It's absolutely kickass and lovely to be part of."

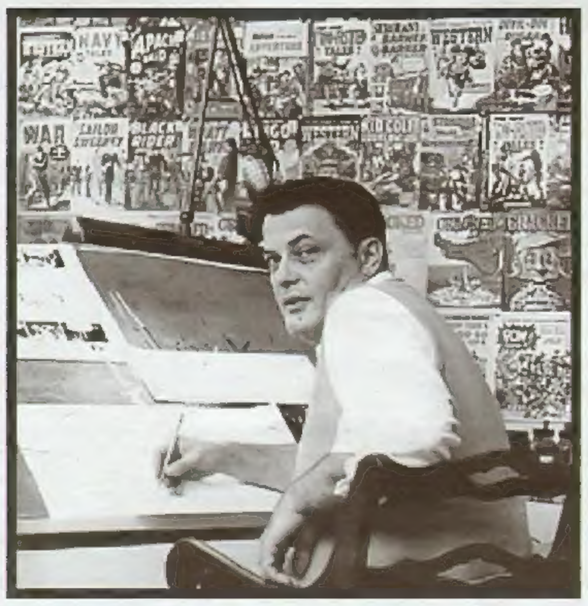
Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, I Vicente Cifuentes' ***Batgirl #7,*** which offers new details about Batgirl's shooting (as well as introducing the new villain Grotesque), is slated for March 14th release. The storyline continues into April's ***Batgirl #8;*** then, in ***Batgirl #9,*** the ***Court of Owls*** story arc finds Barbara struggling to protect the life of her father.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*



John Severin Passes

Acclaimed artist *John Severin*, one of the last remaining greats from the EC era, passed away on February 12th at the age of 90. Severin's career spanned six decades; his skill as an illustrator with an eye for detail made him perfectly suited for war tales and Westerns, and he illustrated scores of such tales. His lighter side was evident in his work for ***Mad*** and ***Cracked***. But many of today's readers know him for his detailed inking at Marvel, as well as his pencil-and-ink work on such series as ***Sgt. Fury & His Howling Commandos*** and the revamped ***Rawhide Kid***.

CSNsider

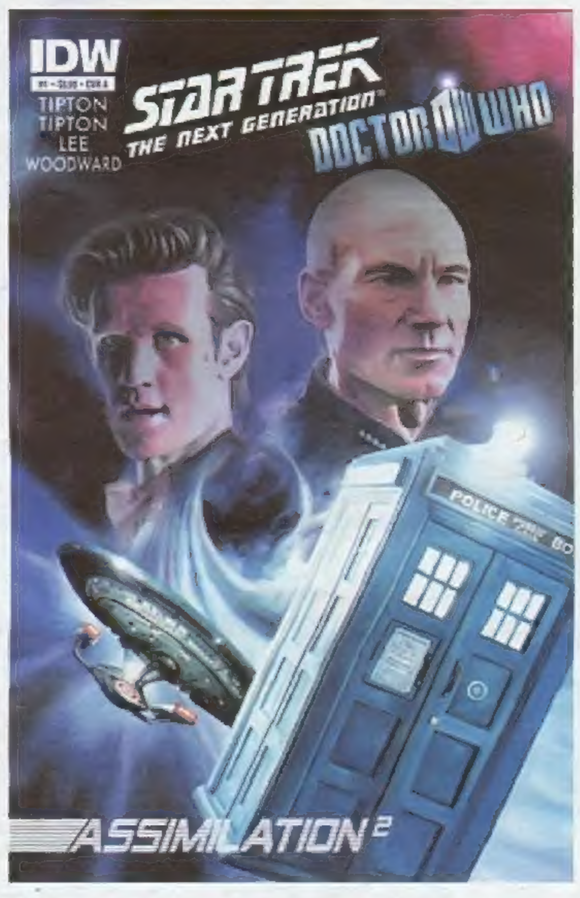
•Marvel has cancelled orders for ***Dream Logic #5;*** the book will be resolicited at a later date.

•DC Senior Vice President of Sales *Bob Wayne* was the recipient of ComicsPRO's 2012 Comics Industry Appreciation Award for his invaluable work in promoting the comics specialty market during his 25 years at DC Comics—and believe us, it was an award very well deserved indeed!

•Boom Studios' Free Comic Book Day offering, originally announced as ***Dune: Origins***, has been replaced by ***The Hypernaturals***, a new science fiction series by *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning*. The series is set in the far future, when the human race has finally colonized the galaxy, preserving an era of prosperity that's only possible because of The Hypernaturals. They're a celebrated, galaxy-wide superhero task force that keeps the peace. That is, until they all mysteriously vanish. Now, as the galaxy teeters on the brink of chaos, it's up to a group of retired and long forgotten Hypernaturals -- and their novice recruits -- to save the galaxy from complete destruction...

Who's Meeting the Crew of the Enterprise

No, this isn't an updated Abbott & Costello routine: Doctor Who, star of television and comics, is about to cross paths with the crew of the USS Enterprise in *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Doctor Who: Assimilation2*, a limited series by *Scott & David Tipton, Tony Lee,* and *J.K. Woodward*.



"By joining these two sci-fi powerhouses, fans will be taken on the ultimate adventure through time and space," said *Liz Kalodner*, executive vice president and general manager of CBS Consumer Products.

The limited series will feature fan-favorite villains the Borg and the Cybermen, who join into an unholy alliance that could result in potential disaster for all humanity. Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise find themselves joining forces with the Doctor and his companions, with the fate of the galaxy hanging in the balance.

"We are excited about this new adventure for the Doctor and the fact that he will be travelling with Captain Jean-Luc Picard and his iconic crew. This is a perfect partnership for not only Doctor Who's incredible fans, but also for the brand," said *Soumya Sriraman*, executive vice president BBC Worldwide Home Entertainment and Licensing.

Star Trek: The Next Generation/Doctor Who: Assimilation2 is slated for May release.

Back to Press

•***Peter Panzerfaust #1 2nd Printing*** (JAN128112), in stores 3/14.

•***Scarlet Spider #1 3rd Printing,*** (JAN128107), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman*, in stores 3/21.

•***Scarlet Spider #2 2nd Printing*** (JAN128106), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman*, in stores 3/21.

•***Thief of Thieves #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC118235), in stores 3/14.

Coming Comics—DC in May

Grant Morrison & Gene Ha present characters from a parallel Earth—including President Superman and the new villain SuperDoom—in ***Action Comics #9.*** Then *Sholly Fisch & Cully Hamner* shine the spotlight on President Superman in a solo backup tale.

Discover what the Court of Owls was up to in Gotham City circa 1880 in ***All-Star Western #9*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat*.

John Constantine guest-stars in ***Animal Man #9*** by *Jeff Lemire & Steve Pugh*.

Jeff Lemire, Timothy Green, & Joseph Silver detail the history of the epic struggle between the Red, the Green, and the Rot in ***Animal Man Annual #1.***

In ***Aquaman #9,*** *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado* reveal more secrets about the team Aquaman belonged to before the Justice League.

Batgirl faces off against the Court of Owls to protect the life of her father, Commissioner Gordon, in ***Batgirl #9*** by *Gail Simone, Ardyan Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes*.

In ***Batman #9*** by *Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion*, Batman must stop the Talons that have breeched the Batcave in order to save an innocent life...and Gotham City! Then, in the back-up story, readers learn more about the Pennyworth family and the secrets they've kept from the Waynes.

Scott Snyder & Jay Fabok introduce the New 52's Mr. Freeze in ***Batman Annual #1.*** But what is his link to the Court of Owls?

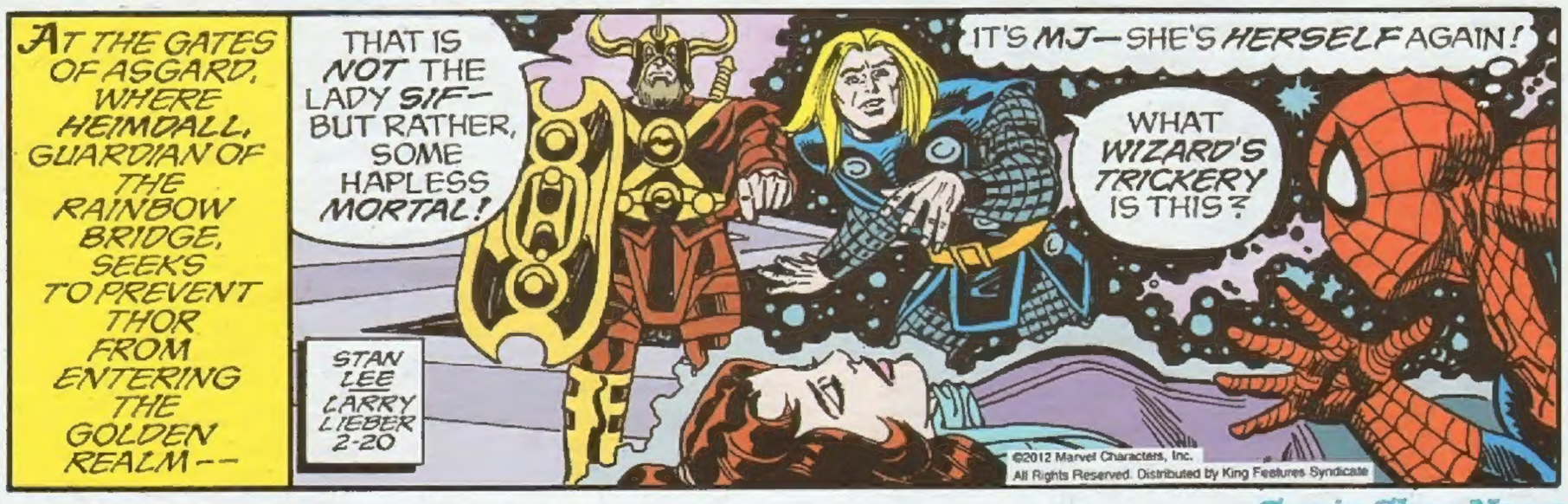
Robin faces Talon alone, with the skies of Gotham City at stake, in ***Batman & Robin #9*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mick Gray.*

Judd Winick joins *David Finch & Richard Friend* to present the return of Red Robin in ***Batman: The Dark Knight #9***—and he's back just in time to face off against Talon and the Court of Owls.

Geoff Johns, Gray Frank, & Jon Sibal present a new take on Bruce Wayne's transformation into Batman and his first year as the Dark Knight in ***Batman: Earth One HC,*** an original graphic novel that presents a very different take on the

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


AT THE GATES OF ASGARD, WHERE HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, SEEKS TO PREVENT THOR FROM ENTERING THE GOLDEN REALM--
THAT IS NOT THE LADY SIF— BUT RATHER, SOME HAPLESS MORTAL!
IT'S MJ—SHE'S HERSELF AGAIN!
WHAT WIZARD'S TRICKERY IS THIS?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-20
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Batman mythos—and a bold new interpretation of Alfred Pennyworth.

Leviathan's sinister mission is revealed in ***Batman, Incorporated #1*** by *Grant Morrison & Chris Burnham*. But before they can focus on the big picture, Batman and Robin have to face off against the assassin Goatboy.

In ***Batwing #9,*** Batwing arrives in Gotham City just in time to fight the chaos the Court of Owls has unleashed.

J.H. Williams III, W. Haden Blackman, Amy Reeder, & Rob Hunter continue an unconventional spy thriller of six intertwined lives with only one thing in common in ***Batwoman #9.***

Black Canary, Batgirl, Katana, & Poison Ivy risk their lives in Gotham City to battle the Talon and the Court of Owls in ***Birds of Prey #9*** by *Duane Swierczynski, Travel Foreman, & Jeff Huet.*

A bounty hunter packing Oan technology targets Blue Beetle, Kyle Rayner, and the New Guardians in ***Blue Beetle #9*** by *Tony Bedard & Marcio Takara.*

Captain Atom gets a visit from Captain Atom (?) in ***Captain Atom #9*** by *JT Krul & Freddie Williams II.*

Catwoman and Spark are forced to defend the Penguin against the Court of Owls in ***Catwoman #9*** by *Judd Winick & Guillem March.*

James Robinson & Bernard Chang introduce the FBI's best profiler, Kass Sage, in ***DC Universe #9...*** the only problem is, she's the daughter of imprisoned serial killer Vandal Savage!

For anybody else, hunting Lobo would be suicide. For Deathstroke, it's just business, as *Rob Liefeld* reveals in ***Deathstroke #9.***

Who has the power to murder Merlin – and what else are they capable of? Find out in ***Demon Knights #9*** by *Paul Cornell, Diogenes Neves, & Oclair Albert.*

Batman is poisoned by the deadly Mr. Toxic in ***Detective Comics #9*** by *Tony S. Daniel, Joel Gomez, & Sandu Florea.* This issue also features a Two-Face backup story.

in ***Dial H #1,*** bestselling Hugo-winning novelist *China Mieville* explores what might happen if an ordinary person discovered an artifact that turned the user into a different superhero each time the device was activated. Unfortunately, the world is threatened by this very same device...

Who are the heroes of Earth 2 – and what befell them? Find out the fates of Alan Scott, Jay Garrick, and many others in ***Earth 2 #1*** by *James Robinson, Nicola Scott, & Trevor Scott,* an extra-sized debut issue that introduces the multiverse to the New 52.

Get ready to meet the New 52 Gorilla Grodd in *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato's* ***Flash #9,*** as the Flash travels to Gorilla City for the first time!

SHADE. sends Frankenstein to find the mysteriously missing Animal Man in ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #9*** by *Jeff Lemire, Alberto Ponticelli, & Wayne Faucher.*

Tanks versus dinosaurs! Okay, ***GI Combat #1*** is more than that—but that summarized everything we loved about the Silver Age series that inspired this new launch—and with *JT Krul & Ariel Olivetti* on board, it's bound to be as exciting as the original! This issue also features a backup featuring the new Unknown Soldier by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Dan Panosian.*

Ann Nocenti & Harvey Tolibao present the final showdown between Oliver Queen, Leer, and the Skylarks in ***Green Arrow #9.***

In ***Green Lantern #9*** by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy,* Hal Jordan and Sinestro learn the horrific truth behind the members of the Indigo Tribe and their connection to Abin Sur, while the Guardians begin their plan to replace the Green Lantern Corps.

John Stewart goes on trial for the murder of a fellow Green Lantern in ***Green Lantern Corps #9*** by *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Scott Hanna.*

Odym, homeworld of the Blue Lanterns, is under attack by the alien conquerors known as the Reach in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #9*** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt.* And even the combined power of the different Lantern Corps might not be enough to defeat The Reach!

Rob Liefeld, Frank Tieri, & Scott Clark make their creative debut with ***Grifter #9,*** featuring the New 52 debuts of Deathblow and Cheshire.

Guided by the new vampire leader Andrew Bennett, the vampire pilgrimage to their new homeland begins in ***I, Vampire #9*** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andrea Sorrentino.*

Geoff Johns, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams kick off "the Villain's Journey" in ***Justice League #9,*** introducing a major new nemesis for the League. Meanwhile, *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank* continue the adventures of Billy Batson in part 3 of the ***Shazam!*** backup.

Constantine and the team must steal a map to the source of all magic out of the clutches of Felix Faust in ***Justice League Dark #9*** by *Jeff Lemire & Mikel Janin,* the kickoff of a four-part story that will have lasting implications for the entire DC Universe.

The Justice League International take on OMAC in ***Justice League International #9*** by *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan,* a tale that crosses over with ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #9.***

One of the greatest Legionnaires quits the team in ***Legion of Super-Heroes #9*** by *Paul Levitz & Francis Portela.*

In ***Nightwing #9,*** Nightwing faces another villain claiming to be the Talon at City Hall as the Court of Owls' plans go into action – but will he be able to figure out what's going on before it's too late?

Fairchild, Thunder & Lightning, Ridge, Beast Boy, and Terra find themselves targeted for death in ***The Ravagers #1*** by *Howard Mackie & Ian Churchill,* a new series spinning out of "The Culling."

Atrocitus discovers a conspiracy behind the awakening of Abysmus in ***Red Lanterns #9*** by *Peter Milligan, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter...* a conspiracy that threatens to kill every member of his corps!

The Court of Owls is attacking, and the last person in the world you'd expect to answer Batman's call to arms is the Red Hood... but that's just what happens in ***Red Hood & the Outlaws #9*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.*

Amanda Waller and the Suicide Squad want Mitch Shelley's seemingly indestructible body in the worst way possible – and that's how they'll probably wind up getting it in ***Resurrection Man #9*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Fernando Dagnino.*

The new creative team of *Rob Liefeld, Mark Poulton, Joe Bennett, & Art Thibert* pit Hawkman against the evil Xerxes in ***The Savage Hawkman #9.***

Jill Thompson provides the art for *James Robinson's* ***The Shade #8,*** a "Times Past" issue.

Bryan Q. Miller & Pere Perez continue the story of the hit ***Smallville*** television series in ***Smallville Season 11 #1,*** which reveals how Clark's life is changed once he dons the Superman costume.

New writer *Peter Milligan* joins artist *Miguel Sepulveda* with ***Stormwatch #9,*** which pits Stormwatch against Red Lantern Skallox.

Deadshot, the marksman with a death wish, battles the unkillable Resurrection Man in ***Suicide Squad #9*** by *Adam Glass & Fernando Dagnino,* which leads into ***Resurrection Man #9.***

As Supergirl joins the new Silver Banshee as she stands against her father, the Black Banshee, she learns about her weakness to magic in ***Supergirl #9*** by *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Mahmud Asrar.*

How can Superman fight an opponent he can't touch? *Keith Giffen, Dan Jurgens, & Jesus Merino* answer that question in ***Superman #9,*** featuring the premiere of the new supervillainess Masochist.

DC's young readers line expands with the addition of ***Superman Family Adventures #1*** by *Art Baltazar & Francesco,* the team responsible for the award-winning and acclaimed ***Tiny Titans.*** This series presents classic Superman elements reinterpreted for all ages, complete with that unique Baltazar/Francesco humor.

Swamp Thing battles his way through the Bone Kingdom to take on Sethe and his servants in *Scott Snyder, Yanick Paquette, & Marco Rudy's* ***Swamp Thing #9,*** which lays the groundwork for the debut of a classic Swamp Thing villain and the beginning of the next phase for this series.

"The Culling" begins in ***Teen Titans Annual #1*** as the Teen Titans take on Legion Lost one mile beneath the Antarctic, courtesy of Scott Lobdell, Tom DeFalco, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund. From there, it continues into ***Superboy #9*** as Superboy faces off against Rose Wilson—and readers meet the all-new Warblade. Then the story continues into ***Legion Lost #9*** as the Titans and Legion Lost join forces to confront Dark Harvest and his minions ; from there, it concludes in ***Teen Titans #9*** as the Titans and legion Lost duke it out with NOWHERE and Harvest in a tale that paves the way for ***Ravagers #1.***

In ***Voodoo #9*** by *Josh Williamson & Sami Basri,* Pris is forced to confront exactly what she has become after being experimented on by the Daemonites, and she embarks on a quest to find other victims like her.

In *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang's* ***Wonder Woman #9,*** Wonder Woman continues to battle through Hades in hopes of rescuing the only friend she has left.

Why are Power Girl and Huntress of Earth 2 stranded on our Earth—and what does it mean for the heroes of the New 52? *Paul Levitz, Scott Koblish, & Kevin Maguire* answer that question in ***World's Finest #1,*** the first issue of an ongoing series that offers further insights into the Earth 2 multiverse.

DC collected editions (advance solicited for June and July release) include:

- ***Batgirl Volume 1: The Darkest Reflection HC,*** collecting ***Batgirl #s 1-6.***
- ***Batman & Robin Volume 1: Born to Kill HC,*** collecting ***Batman & Robin #s 1-8.***
- ***Batman Illustrated by Neal Adams Volume 1 TP,*** collecting stories from ***World's Finest #s 175-176*** and ***Brave & Bold #s 79-85.***
- ***Birds of Prey: End Run TP,*** collecting ***Birds of Prey #s 1-6.***
- ***First Wave TP,*** collecting ***First Wave #s 1-6*** and ***Batman /Doc Savage #1.***
- ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE Volume 1: War of the Monsters TP,*** collecting ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #s 1-7.***

I BROUGHT MY BELOVED HOME— ONLY TO FIND HER TRANSFORMED INTO A LESSER MORTAL!
WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLING "LESSER"!
I KNOW THIS WOMAN-- AND SHE'S NOT YOUR BELOVED!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-21
BY ODIN, I SENSE THE FIENDISH HAND OF LOKI IN ALL THIS!
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•***Gotham City Sirens: Strange Fruit TP,*** collecting ***Gotham City Sirens #s 14-19.***
•***Green Lantern Corps: Revolt of the Alpha Lanterns TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Corps #s 21-22 & 48-52.***
•***Infinity Inc: The Generations Saga Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Infinity Inc #s 15-18 & Annual #1,*** featuring early art by *Todd McFarlane* in some issues.
•***Justice TP,*** collecting the twelve-part series by *Jim Krueger, Alex Ross, & Doug Braithwaite.*
•***Legion of Super-Heroes Volume 1: Hostile World TP,*** collecting ***Legion #s 1-6.***
•***Mister Terrific Volume 1: Mind Games TP,*** collecting ***Mister Terrific #s 1-8.***
•***Night Force TP,*** collecting ***Night Force #s 1-14*** by *Marv Wolfman & Gene Colan.*
•***Red Lanterns Volume 1: Blood & Rage TP,*** collecting ***Red Lanterns #s 1-7.***
•***Seven Soldiers of Victory Volume 2 TP,*** collecting *Grant Morrison's* ***Mister Miracle #s 1-4, Bulleteer #s 1-4, Zatanna #4, Klarion #4, Frankenstein #s 1-4,*** and ***Seven Soldiers of Victory #1.***
•***Showcase Presents Showcase Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Showcase #s 1-21,*** featuring the first appearances of the Challengers of the Unknown, Flash, Adam Strange, and the first solo Lois Lane issues.
•***Static Shock Volume 1: Supercharged TP,*** collecting ***Static Shock #s 1-8.***
•***Superman: Kryptonite Nevermore TP,*** collecting ***Superman #s 233-238 & 240-242,*** the tale that reinvented Superman for the 1970s.
•***Tiny Titans: Growing Up Tiny TP,*** collecting ***Tiny Titans #s 39-44.***
•***Wonder Woman Archives Volume 7 HC,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 16-18*** and stories from ***Sensation Comics #s 50-57.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in May

Briar Rose and Ali Baba are captured by the Snow Queen in ***Fairest #3,*** by *Bill Willingham, Phil Jimenez, & Andy Lanning.* And let's throw in seven good fairy godmothers... and one really, *really* bad one.

Paul Pope, Kyle Baker, Andy Diggle, Robert Rodi, Michael Allred, Ann Nocenti, Davide Gianfelice, and many others venture into the realm of the science fictional in ***Mystery in Space #1,*** a oneshot anthology featuring a full 80 pages of original material.

Jeff Lemire goes wide with ***Sweet Tooth #33,*** a unique children's story unlike any other... not just because of its series-altering content, but also because it's printed in a special wide sideways format.

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for June and July release) include:
•***DMZ Volume 12: The Five Nations of New York TP,*** collecting ***DMZ #s 67-72.***
•***Hellblazer Volume 3: The Fear Machine New Edition TP,*** collecting ***Hellblazer #s 14-22.***
•***Neil Gaiman's Midnight Days Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting Gaiman tales from ***Swamp Thing Annual #5, Sandman Midnight Theatre, Hellblazer #27, Welcome Back to the House of Mystery #1,*** and more.

Coming in June from DC Direct

Before the blockbuster ***The Dark Knight Rises*** hits theaters in July, DC Direct offers fans a selection of incredibly detailed busts that capture the essence of ***Batman*** and two of his greatest foes—***Bane*** and ***Catwoman***!

Bane, Catwoman, & Batman are also offered as a trio of ***Dark Knight Rises 1:6 Scale Icon Statues.***

DC's line of ***New 52 Action Figures*** continues in June with ***Green Lantern*** and ***Aquaman Action Figures,*** based on the characters as reinvented for *Geoff Johns & Jim Lee's* best-selling ***Justice League.***

Meanwhile, the ***Batman: Arkham City Deluxe Action Figure*** line takes a turn for the worst with the release of two bad-guy figures: ***Mister Freeze*** and ***Killer Croc,*** both based on the blockbuster videogame from Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment.

Enjoy a very different take on ***Blackest Night*** with the ***Ame-Comi Black Flash PVC Figure,*** designed by *Jim Fletcher* and sculpted by *Jack Mathews.*

The latest addition to DC Direct's line of ***Green Lantern: Animated Series Statues*** is the ***Atrocitus Statue,*** sculpted by *Dave Cortes* and based on the version of the character seen in the popular animated series.

Coming Comics—Marvel in May

As *Ed Brubaker, Jonathan Hickman, & John Romita Jr.* continue ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** in May with #s 3 & 4, the Avengers and the X-Men scour the Earth in search for the host of the Phoenix, while Hope takes matters into her own hands and Cap and Wolverine come to blows. And if that's not bad enough, the situation gets even worse when the Avengers "away team" meets the Phoenix head-on in space!

In the ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** tie-in ***AvX: Vs #2,*** Spider-Man takes on Colossus while Captain America battles Gambit. Don't worry about too much plot getting in the way—this is the definitive superhero slugfest miniseries!

Other ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** tie-ins include
•***Avengers #26*** (*Brian Bendis & Walt Simonson*) - One of the Avengers must betray the team to fulfill their destiny with the Phoenix.
•***Uncanny X-Men #12*** (*Kieron Gillen & Greg Land*) - The Avengers and X-Men take their battles world-wide.
•***Wolverine & the X-Men #s 10 & 11*** (*Jason Aaron & Chris Bachalo*) - Cyclops comes to the Jean Gray School in search of allies.
•***New Avengers #26*** (*Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato*) - The secret history of the Phoenix is revealed in K'un Lun's book of the dead Iron Fists.
•***Secret Avengers #27*** (*Rick Remender & Renato Guedes*) - Captain Marvel, The Protector and Ms. Marvel vs The Avengers!
•***Avengers Academy #s 29 & 30*** (*Christos Gage & Tom Grummett*) - Sebastian Shaw strikes!
•***X-Men Legacy #s 266 & 267*** (*Christos Gage & Rafa Sandoval*) - She-Hulk, Falcon and Moon Knight are tasked with securing the Jean Grey School...

He may be waging war against the evil Doctor Octopus and his malevolent minions in ***Amazing Spider-Man,*** but Spider-Man isn't the only hero fighting free the globe from Doc Ock's treacherous tentacles... and the dying doctor has some wicked worldly associates of his own. See both sides in action in the oneshot ***Amazing Spider-Man: Ends of the Earth.***

Spider-Man finds himself stuck in a world where Peter Parker never existed in ***Amazing Spider-Man Annual #39*** by *Brian Reed & Lee Garbett.*

Karma is losing control of her mind, and taking control of the other X-Men, in ***Astonishing X-Men #50*** by *Marjorie Liu & Mike Perkins.*

Who is behind the new Zodiac? The Avengers find out in ***Avengers Assemble #3,*** the all-star superteam series by *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley.*

Fred Van Lente chronicles a brand new Black Widow solo adventure set in the Marvel cinematic universe in ***The Avengers: Black Widow Strikes,*** a three-part miniseries.

Stuart Moore presents a prose retelling of ***Civil War*** in the ***Civil War Prose Novel HC.***

It's lawyers in love as Matt Murdock finally makes some time for assistant district attorney Kirsten McDuffie in ***Daredevil #12*** by *Mark Waid & Chris Samnee.*

Kieron Gillen, Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Carmine Di Giandomenico present a tale that blend ***Journey Into Mystery*** and ***New Mutants*** in ***Exiled #1.*** A forgotten hero returns, mightier than Thor himself, but will the truth behind his exile consume them all? From there,the story continues into ***Journey Into Mystery #637, New Mutants #42, Journey Into Mystery #42, & New Mutants #43.***

Jonathan Hickman & Mike Choi reveal the secret history of the FF in ***Fantastic Four #605.1*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Mike Choi.* Everything starts just like you remember... but it ends like something completely different.

Garth Ennis & Goran Parlov offer a look at the post-WWII years and Nick Fury's transformation from soldier to secret agent in ***Fury MAX #1.***

Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz present a five-part battle extravaganza between the Hulk and the Avengers of different eras in ***Hulk Smash Avengers.***

In order to stay himself, Hulk must stay angry. But how can he stay angry? by facing off against the Punisher, that's how! Witness the confrontation in ***Incredible Hulk #8*** by *Jason Aaron & Steve Dillon.*

If Tony Stark isn't Iron Man, then who's the guy in the suit? Find out in ***Invincible Iron***

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AYE! HE TRICKED ME INTO LEAVING ASGARD AGAINST ODIN'S COMMAND.
AND NOW—YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO RETURN!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-22

Man #517 by *Matt Fraction & Salvador Larroca.*

Fred Van Lente & Ron Lim present the official prequel to the ***Avengers*** film in the oneshot ***Marvel's The Avengers: The Avengers Initiative.***

A.R.M.O.R. is called upon to rescue a reality where the Nazis won WWII... with zombies! It's up to Howard the Duck, Dum Dum Dugan, and Ducky's Dozen to win the war in ***Marvel Zombies Destroy!,*** a five-part miniseries by *Frank Marraffino & Mirco Pierfederici.*

How far will Donald Blake go to regain what he's lost? *Matt Fraction & Pepe Larraz* answer that question in ***The Mighty Thor #14.***

Last year's hit all-ages graphic novel spawns the new ongoing series ***Takio*** by *Brian Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming.* Taki and Olivia are sisters with superpowers! In fact, they are the only ones in their world with superpowers—so obviously, they have to become superheroes! But is their world ready for real-life superheroes?

"The Final Execution" begins in ***Uncanny X-Force #25,*** courtesy of *Rick Remender & Mike McKone.* Who are the Omegas and why must X-Force hunt them down?

Discover the secret behind Rot's twisted family...and the connection to Wolverine... in ***Wolverine #306*** by *Cullen Bunn & Paul Pelletier.*

Venom faces a gauntlet of doom as the Crime-Master unites Jack O'Lantern, The Human Fly, Toxin and more to destroy Flash Thompson in ***Venom #17*** by *Rick Remender, Cullen Bunn, & Kev Walker.*

Peter David & Leonard Kirk introduce the all new villain Scattershot in ***X-Factor #235...*** a villain who looks suspiciously like two members of X-Factor Investigations...

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Alpha Flight by Greg Pak & Fred Van Lente Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Alpha Flight #0.1 & 1-4.***
- ***Amazing Spider-Man: Parallel Lives,*** a oneshot reprinting the *Gerry Conway-Alex Saviuk* graphic novel.
- ***Astonishing X-Men Volume 7: Monstrous TP,*** collecting ***Astonishing X-Men #s 36-37, 39, & 41.***
- ***Avengers by Brian Bendis Volume 3 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 18-24.***
- ***Avengers Academy: Second Semester Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avengers Academy #s 21-26.***
- ***Avengers: The Contest TP,*** collecting ***Contest of Champions #s 1-3, West Coast Avengers***

EVEN IF ODIN ORDERED YOU NOT TO LEAVE ASGARD-- DOESN'T HE EVER CHANGE HIS MIND?
ALAS, HE CANNOT!
"HE HAS ENTERED THE FABLED ODIN-SLEEP! NONE DARE WAKE HIM!"
MEANWHILE, LOKI WILL SEEK TO RULE THIS REALM—AND EARTH AS WELL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-23
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COVER STORY

MIND THE GAP #1
Image Comics
Eisner-winning writer Jim McCann joins Rodin Esquejo (*Morning Glories*) and Sonia Oback (*S.H.I.E.L.D., The Defenders*) for this all-new, ongoing psychological thriller series that will leave you guessing at every turn!

BATMAN: EARTH ONE HC
DC Comics
In the tradition of *Superman: Earth One*, Geoff Johns and Gary Frank present this original graphic novel giving new insights into Bruce Wayne's transformation into Batman and his first year as The Dark Knight!

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Annual #2, and *Avengers Annual #16.*

•***Avengers: The Many Faces of Henry Pym TP,*** collecting the highlights and low points of Henry Pym's career in a 184-page trade paperback.

•***Avengers West Coast: Along Came a Spider-Woman TP,*** collecting *Avengers West Coast #s 58-59 & 63-75.*

•***Captain America by Ed Brubaker Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting *Captain America #s 6-10.*

•***Captain America & Bucky: Old Wounds Premiere HC,*** collecting *Captain America & Bucky #s 625-628.*

•***Daken: Dark Wolverine—No More Heroes Premiere HC,*** collecting *Daken: Dark Wolverine #s 20-23.*

•***Daredevil by Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark Ultimate Collection Book 2 TP,*** collecting *Daredevil #s 94-105.*

•***Deadpool Volume 9: Institutionalized TP,*** collecting *Deadpool #s 40-44.*

•***Deadpool MAX: Involuntary Armageddon TP,*** collecting *Deadpool MAX #s 7-12.*

•***Deadpool MAX: Second Cut Premiere HC,*** collecting *Deadpool MAX 2 #s 1-6* and *Deadpool MAX X-Mas Special.*

•***Essential Black Panther Volume 1 TP,*** collecting *Jungle Action #s 6-22 & 24* and *Black Panther #s 1-10.*

•***Generation Hope: The End of a Generation TP,*** collecting *Generation Hope #s 13-17.*

•***Halo: Fall of Reach—Covenant TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.

•***Iron Man: Revenge of the Mandarin Premiere HC,*** collecting *Iron Man #s 8-14, Iron Man/Captain America Annual '98,* and *Fantastic Four #15.*

•***Kick Ass 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting the seven-part miniseries.

•***Magneto: Not a Hero TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.

•***Marvel Firsts: The 1970s Volume 3 TP,*** collecting the first appearances of Skull the Slayer, the Champions, Black Goliath, Omega the Unknown, Nova, Ms. Marvel, Machine Man, and many others.

•***Marvel Masterworks: The Amazing Spider-Man Volume 7 TP,*** collecting *Amazing Spider-Man #s 62-67 & Annual #5* and *Spectacular Spider-Man #s 1 & 2.*

•***Marvel Masterworks: The Defenders Volume 3 HC,*** collecting *Defenders #s 17-21, Giant-Size Defenders #s 2-4,* and more.

•***Marvel Universe Spider-Man: Amazing Fantasy Digest,*** collecting the all-ages *Spider-Man #s 21-24.*

•***Marvel Universe Vs. Wolverine TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.

•***The Mighty Thor by Matt Fraction Volume 1 TP,*** collecting *Mighty Thor #s 1-6.*

•***The Mighty Thor by Matt Fraction Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting *Mighty Thor #s 7-12* and *Fear Itself #7.2.*

•***Moon Knight by Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev Volume 1 TP,*** collecting *Moon Knight #s 1-7.*

•***Moon Knight by Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting *Moon Knight #s 8-12.*

•***New Avengers by Brian Bendis Volume 3 Premiere HC,*** collecting *New Avengers #s 16.1 & 17-23.*

•***New Mutants Classic Volume 7 TP,*** collecting *New Mutants #s 48-54 & Annual #3.*

•***New X-Men Omnibus (New Printing),*** collecting *New X-Men #s 114-154 & Annual 2001.*

•***Oz: Ozma of OZ GN,*** collecting *Ozma of Oz #s 1-8.*

•***Spider-Man: Big Time Ultimate Collection TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

•***Strikeforce: Morituri Volume 3 TP,*** collecting *Strikeforce Morituri #s 27-31* and *Electric Undertow #s 1-5.*

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man: Death of Spider-Man—Fallout TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.

•***Uncanny X-Force Volume 3: The Dark Angel Saga Book 1 TP,*** collecting *Uncanny X-Force #s 8-13.*

•***Uncanny X-Force: Otherworld Premiere HC,*** collecting *Uncanny X-Force #19.1 & 20-24.*

•***Uncanny X-Men by Kieron Gillen Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting *Uncanny X-Men #s 5-10.*

•***Venom: Circle of Four HC,*** collecting *Venom #s 10-14 & 13.1-13.4.*

•***Wolverine & Black Cat: Claws 2 TP,*** collecting the *Joseph Michael Linsner*-illustrated miniseries & more.

•***X-23 Volume 3: Don't Look Back Premiere HC,*** collecting *X-23 #s 17-21.*

•***X-Factor: They Keep Killing Madrox Premiere HC,*** collecting *X-Factor #s 229-232.*

•***X-Force: Child's Play Premiere HC,*** collecting *X-Force #s 32-37 & Annual #3* and *New Warriors #s 45-46.*

•***X-Men: Iceman Premiere HC,*** collecting *Iceman #s 1-4* and more.

•***X-Men: Operation Zero Tolerance HC,*** a massive compendium that includes *Generation X #s 26-31, X-Force #s 67-70, X-Men #s 65-70, Uncanny X-Men #346, Wolverine #115-118,* and more.

•***X-Men: Phoenix—Endsong/Warsong Ultimate Collection TP,*** collecting both five-part miniseries.

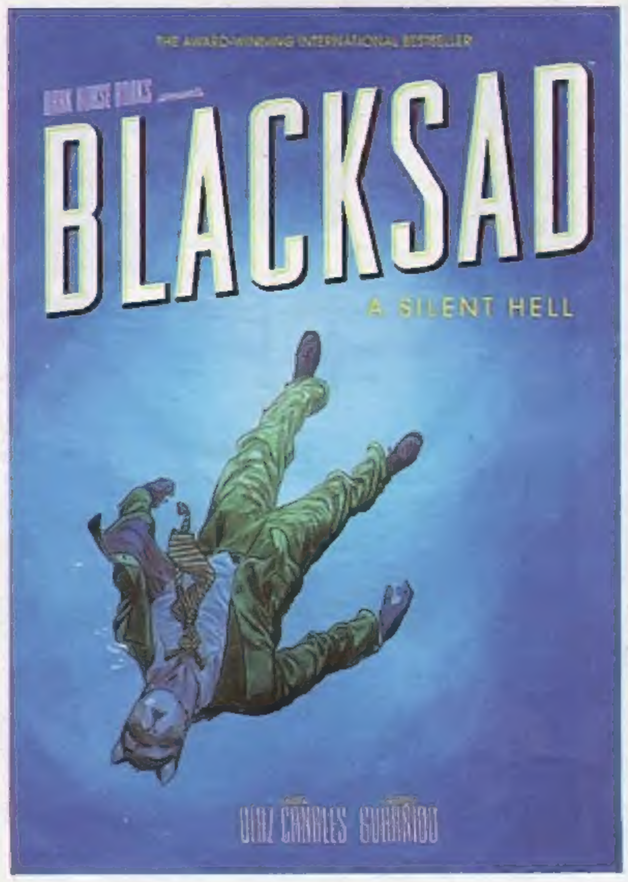
Coming Comics—Dark Horse in May

Writer *Christos Gage* is joined by guest artist *Chris Samnee* for ***Angel & Faith #10,*** in which Angel and Faith are forced into battle when two mysterious women from Giles's past call on the unlikely duo for help.

Caught between bat-faced monsters, a devastating earthquake, and the mad science experiments of Zinco, Devon, and Fenix form an uneasy alliance in order to get to safety in ***BPRD: Hell on Earth—The Devil's Engine #1*** by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Tyler Crook.*

Twenty-four years ago, Hellboy took mild-mannered Professor O'Donnell to the secret library of a recently dead necromancer. Since that day, O'Donnell has been the Bureau's expert on the powerful ancient forces intent on ending the age of man. Find out what O'Donnell saw in this supernatural thrill ride in ***BPRD: Hell on Earth—The Transformation of J.H. O'Donnell,*** a oneshot by *Mike Mignola, Scott Allie, & Max Fiumara.*

Juan Diaz Canales & Junajo Guarnido's Detective John Blacksad returns in ***Blacksad: A Silent Hell HC*** as a new case that takes him to a 1950s New Orleans filled with hot jazz and cold-blooded murder!



Buffy's life is profoundly affected by one of Andrew's over-the-top, idiotic schemes in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 #9*** by *Andrew Chambliss, Scott Allie, Cliff Richards, & Andy Owens.* Together with Andrew and Spike, the worried Slayer will have to confront herself and her comrades, as well as the number-one Buffy hater of all Buffy haters: Simone, the gun-toting Slayer.

Writer *Brian Wood* is joined by artist *James Harren* for a new arc that begins in ***Conan the Barbarian #4,*** as Conan, pirate Queen Bêlit, and their pirate crew hatch a plan to take a city's worth of gold.

Jim Valentino's Normalman, *Dean Motter's* Mister X, and *Mike Baron & Steve Rude's* Nexus all make appearances in ***Dark Horse Presents #12.***

Felicia Day and The Guild are back, along with costar *Wil Wheaton,* for ***The Guild: Fawkes,*** starring the leader of the evil guild Axis of Anarchy! This oneshot by *Felicia Day, Wil Wheaton, & Jamie McKelvie* fills in the gap between the end of Season 4 and Fawkes' return in Season 5.

Join Molly and her dogs Mingo and Colfax, as she recounts the legend of a fearless barbarian, his trusty and freakishly large pug, and evil baby harp seals in ***Mike Norton's Battlepug Volume 1 HC,*** collecting the first year of the webcomic by *Mike Norton, Allen Passalaqua, & Crank.*

Matt Kindt, creator of the acclaimed graphic novel ***Revolver,*** ventures into the world of espionage in ***Mind MGMT #1.*** A young journalists's investigation of a flight in which everyone on board lost their memories leads her to the top-secret Mind Management pro-

I MUST ENTER ASGARD—TO CONFRONT LOKI!
I AM PLEDGED TO LET NONE RE-ENTER—NOT EVEN THEE!
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NOT YET, THUNDER GOD...
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WHY NOT SEND ME TO BATTLE LOKI IN YOUR PLACE?
!

gram. The ensuing journey involves weaponized psychics, hypnotic advertising, talking dolphins, and seemingly immortal pursuers, as she attempts to find the flight's missing passenger.

A stranded alien seeks refuge in the small town of Patience, USA, where he hides undercover as a semiretired doctor ion *Peter Hogan & Steve Parkhouse's* ***Resident Alien #1.***

The graduation celebration for the first class of Imperial cadets is disrupted by a sudden terrorist strike! But the real targets of the attack are the new Emperor and his second in command, Darth Vader. Only one man—a disabled, brilliant cadet who, up until the moment of the attack, was experiencing the best moment of his life—stands ready to fight alongside Vader for the life of his Emperor in ***Star Wars: Darth Vader & the Ghost Prison #1*** by *Haden Blackman & Agustin Alessio.*

Dark Horse collected editions (advance solicited for June and July release) include:

- ***Crime Does Not Pay Archives Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Crime Does Not Pay #s 26-29.***
- ***The Chronicles of Conan Volume 22 TP,*** collecting ***Conan the Barbarian #s 168-173*** and ***Conan Annual #s 8 &9.***
- ***Creepy Presents Richard Corben HC,*** a 32-page volume collecting all of Corben's ***Creepy*** and Eerie stories.
- ***Dragon Age Volume 1: The Silent Grove HC,*** an 80-page compilation of material previously available online.
- ***The Guild Volume 2 TP,*** collecting the oneshots ***The Guild: Vork, Tink, Bladezz, Clara,*** and ***Zaboo.***
- ***Hellboy Library Edition Volume 5 HC,*** collecting ***Hellboy: Darkness Falls*** and ***The Wild Hunt,*** along with the short story "The Mole" and a hefty selection of sketches and designs.
- ***House of Night HC,*** collecting *P.C. Cast's* ***House of Night #'s 1-5.***
- ***Kull Volume 3: The Cat and the Skull TP,*** collecting the Kull miniseries.

- ***The Occultist Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the miniseries written by *Tim Seeley.*
- ***The Orchid Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the first chapter of *Tom Morello's* tale of a teenage prostitute who learns that she is more than the role society has imposed upon her.
- ***The Skeleton Key Color Special,*** collecting three *Andi Watson* stories from ***Dark Horse Presents.***
- ***Tarzan: The Jesse Marsh Years Volume 11 HC,*** collecting Dell's ***Tarzan #s 52-56*** and ***March of Comics #125*** from 1954.
- ***Usagi Yojimbo Volume 26: Traitors of Earth TP & HC,*** collecting ***Usagi Yojimbo #s 117-123*** and a selection of short stories.

Coming Comics—Image in May

A retired assassin and his ballerina companion must esacpe a relentless sniper in ***Dancer #1,*** a spy thriller by *Nathan Edmondson & Nic Klein.*

Hitmen and mercenaries from around the world are ordered by the President to take out an 18-year-old super-assassin in ***Epic Kill #1*** by *Raffaele Ienco*—but the job turns out to be tougher than it sounds!

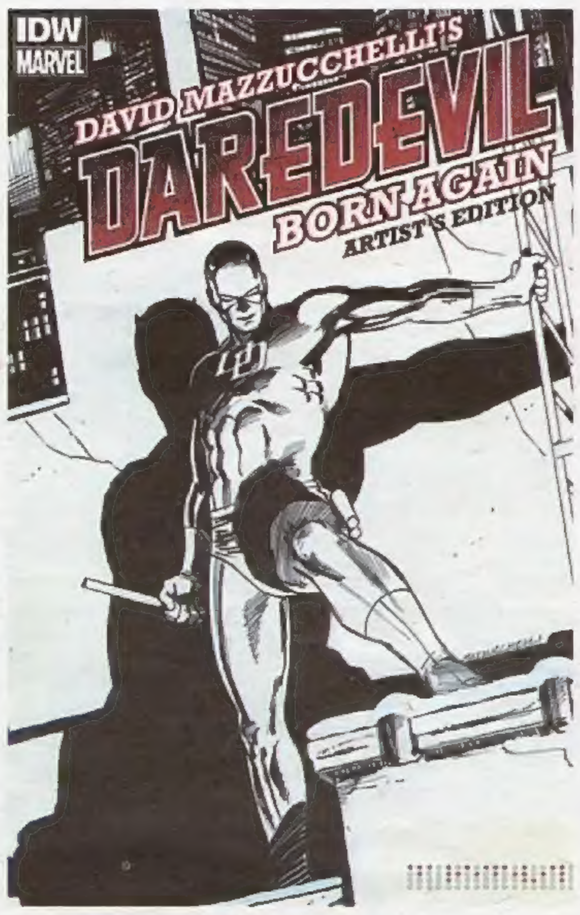
Kurtis Wiebe's ***Grim Leaper #1*** introduces Lou Collins, a man caught in a cyclical curse of violent, gruesome deaths and new beginnings in the bodies of strangers.

A woman falls into a coma after a brutal attack in the Manhattan subways, and the only clues as to her attacker are trapped inside her mind. The search for the mysterious assailant is the focus of ***Mind the Gap,*** a new series by *Jim McCann & Rodin Esquejo.*

Youngblood #71 marks the return of the best-known of all Extreme Studios series, courtesy of *John McLaughlin, Jon Malin, & Rob Liefeld.* In this first issue, a young reporter is embedded in the Youngblood team, where she quickly discovers Shaft, Vogue, Lady Photon, Die Hard and Cougar are a team to be reckoned with.

Image collected editions include:

- ***Elephantmen Volume 0: Armed Forces TP,*** collecting ***War Toys*** and ***Enemy Species.***
- ***Foot Soldiers Volume 1 TP,*** collecting *Jim Krueger's* ***Foot Soldiers #s 1-4.***
- ***Haunt Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Haunt #s 13-18.***
- ***Xenoholics Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Xenoholics #s 1-5.***



Coming Comics—IDW in May

David Mazzuchelli's Daredevil: Born Again Artist's Edition is the next deluxe offering from IDW. The 200-page 12" x 17" hardcover will reproduce the entire *Frank Miller*-written storyline, scanned from Mazzuchelli's original art and reproduced in full color to allow readers to see the details—pencil lines, blue pencil markings, corrections, etc.—just as if you were holding the original art in your hands.

Bernie Wrightson returns to the horror classic Frankenstein in May, joining writer *Steve Niles* for ***Frankenstein Alive, Alive,*** an original series that picks up where *Mary Shelley's* novel left off. The black and white book will be reproduced in full color to show the subtle nuances of the original art—the first time IDW has used this approach in comics format, although it has been utilized with great success in their ***Artist's Edition*** books.

Godzilla makes his ongoing series debut in May, courtesy of *Jason Ciarrmella & Victor Santos...* and so are Battra and Rodan!

Planeswalker Dack Fayden battles a Titan on his search for Sifa Grent in ***Magic: The Gathering—The Spell Thief #1.***

IDW brings together two fictional worlds in ***Star Trek: The Next Generation/Doctor Who: Assimilation2.*** (See the article on page 2 for more info on this series.)

The original *Kevin Eastman-Peter Laird* ***TMNT*** are presented in glorious color in ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Color Classics.***

John Byrne returns to the realm of superheroes with the original series ***Trio,*** which features a trio of heroes whose code names are simply One, Two, and Three—but the world knows them better as Rock, Paper, and Scissors.

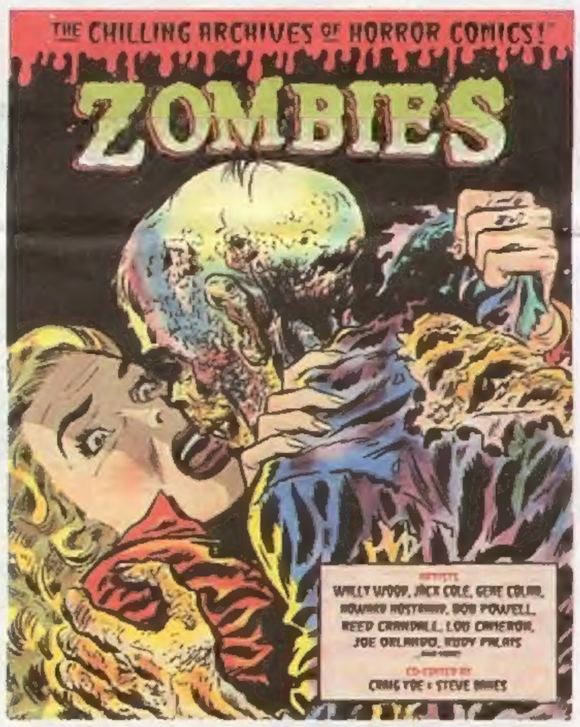
True Blood #1 marks the debut of the ongoing series based on *Alan Ball's* HBO horror drama (which is in turn inspired by *Charlaine Harris's* Sookie Stackhouse novels). The series is written by *Ann Nocenti & Michael McMillian,* with art by *Michael Gaydos.*

Chris Ryall, Ashley Wood, & Sam Kieth are among the creators who contribute stories and art to ***Zombies Vs. Robots Annual.***

Big John Buscema: Comics & Drawings HC presents the first American edition of the 328-page fine art catalog created for the most extensive exhibition of Buscema art ever staged.

IDW collected editions include:

- ***The Cape HC,*** collecting the series inspired by *Joe Hill's* short story.
- ***Comic Book History of Comics TP,*** collecting *Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey's* irreverent but informative comics retellings of key moments in comics history.
- ***Doug Wildey's Rio: The Complete Saga HC,*** collecting the entire Rio saga, including the final, unfinished, and unpublished Rio tale.
- ***GI Joe: Retaliations Movie Prequel TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Locke & Key Volume 4: Keys to the Kingdom TP,*** collecting the *Joe Hill- Gabriel Rodriguez* miniseries.
- ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Ultimate Collection Volume 3 HC,*** collecting Eastman & Larid's ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #s 12, 14, 15, 17, & 19-21.***



- ***Zombies: Chilling Archives of Horror Comics HC,*** featuring 148 pages of 1950s zombie tales featuring art by *Jack Cole, Gene Colan, Wally Wood, Reed Crandall,* and others.

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YOU WISH TO ENTER ASGARD—IN MY STEAD?
WHY NOT? I'M NOT A SO-CALLED "IMMORTAL"—
BUT I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THAT LOKI CREEP.
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
2-25
BESIDES—WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO YOU HAVE?
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In a city of ghosts, spirits and vampires...
she is their Queen

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Dominique Laveau

VOODOO CHILD

A new monthly series

Written by SELWYN SEYFU HINDS
Art by DENYS COWAN

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